

NSC BRIEFING

7 June 1955

SOVIET BLOC'S FACSIMILE NATO

- I. The Warsaw "Treaty of Cooperation, Mutual Assistance and Defense" (signed 14 May by USSR, all 7 Satellites) was culmination of Soviet campaign to erect "facsimile NATO" which had started with in-gathering of Satellite bigwigs at Moscow, Dec. '54
 - A. Treaty provides for two organizations: combined military command, and political consultative committee.
- II. Comparison of Warsaw Treaty with NATO shows Soviet instrument closely modelled after the West's, with some clauses almost direct translations.
 - A. Both agreements provide for "joint measures" in case one of signatories is attacked.
 - B. Both recognize ultimate authority of UN.
 - C. Both pledge contracting parties to seek settlement all disputes "without use or threat of force," and not to join "contradictory" alliances.
- III. As Warsaw Treaty mirrors NATO ~~overall~~, so the combined military command *parallel to* is ~~facsimile of~~ SHAPE.

STATE review(s) completed.

-1-

DOCUMENT NO. *10*
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
☒ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
DATE *17 Jan 80* REVIEWER:

525X1

- ~~SECRET~~
- A. Unified headquarters will be in Moscow, under Soviet Marshal Konev (C-in-C). Defense Minister in each Satellite, or his appointee, will hold rank of deputy to Konev, ~~in Moscow HQ.~~
- B. Treaty does not create special role ^{for} of Soviet Marshal Rokossovski (Polish Defense Minister and only Soviet officer who holds such a post in any Satellite).
1. Early rumors held that Rokossovski would get some sort of NATO-like "regional command," but Treaty provides for no such commands.
- C. Moscow will also be seat of "permanent staff," composed of representatives from General Staffs of each participating country.
- D. Not all Satellites military units will be included in the "United Armed Forces": To date, no allocations have been announced.
1. Additionally, participation of East German forces has been deferred to a "later" date.

E. Soviet "line of communication" troops (now in Hungary and Rumania with total ground strength: 59,000) are nominally stationed there by treaty only while USSR maintains Austrian "occupation Zone."

1. Troops could now remain indefinitely, and new Soviet forces (ABC) could enter any other Satellite under Warsaw Treaty terms, as matter of "sovereign" agreement that such "United Armed Forces" were required for "mutual defense."

IV. From a military standpoint, creation of this combined command is largely a formalization of existing Soviet-Satellite relationships (chart), although the new machinery may make things work better.

A. Interesting to note that Satellite ground force strength (not including USSR) totals slightly over 80 divisions.

B. This almost exactly equal to NATO members' total ^{paper strength} ground divisions (not including US).

V. Although this elaborate "facsimile NATO" possesses military utility, there is substance for speculations that the USSR has broader than merely military aims.

- A. Political consultative committee, for example, will be composed of political representatives from each signatory (ie: facsimile of Atlantic Council).
- B. Committee will "effect the consultations envisaged in the treaty~~rrr~~ and examine other questions arising in connection with its implementation."
- C. Under this broad charter, the Committee could plan and coordinate political and economic--as well as military--policies of all Satellites.
- D. Ambassador Bohlen has suggested that public Soviet confession of error during Belgrade pilgrimage was in part designed to permit a new sort of relations with its Satellites.

VI. This broader Soviet aim may be brought into open at time of Summit meet.

- A. Alterations of Soviet control mechanism in the Eastern Europe might be designed to parry any Western efforts at Summit to negotiate on status of Satellites.

- B. Soviet troops station^{ed} in Satellites as "united armed forces" could ^{now} ~~not~~ be called occupying forces: Warsaw Treaty emphasis on "sovereignty" of signatories would tend to offset Western charges that Satellites not independent.

VII. At same time, whole "facsimile NATO" could be used at Summit as bargaining point.

- A. USSR might offer to abolish new organization in exchange for the disbandment of NATO.
- B. Might even go so far as to offer withdraw Soviet troops from some Satellites in exchange for similar US troop withdrawals from Western Europe
- C. Fact of deferred East German participation strengthens Soviet position for demanding West Germany's withdrawal from NATO commitments.
- D. Indication of such possible bargain offers at Summit came when Soviet pilgrims at Belgrade asked Yugos if they would favor Bulgaria's joining Balkan Alliance.